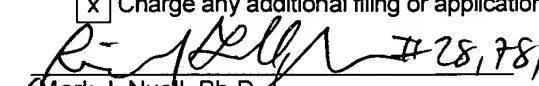




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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 0032-0254P	
Application No. 09/530,013-Conf. #7256		Filing Date April 24, 2000		Examiner R. J. Gitomer	
				Art Unit 1655	
Applicant(s): Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al.					
Invention: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS					
<b>MS Amendment</b> Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	5	- 20 =		x	
Independent Claims	4	- 6 =		x	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>02-2448</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Mark J. Nuehl, Ph.D. Attorney Reg. No.: 36,623				Dated: <u>August 30, 2005</u>	
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP 8110 Gatehouse Rd Suite 100 East P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747 (703) 205-8043					



Docket No.: 0032-0254P  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al.

Application No.: 09/530,013

Confirmation No.: 7256

Filed: April 24, 2000

Art Unit: 1655

For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE  
DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC  
PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING  
THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR  
COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS

Examiner: R. J. Gitomer

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005, the following amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This response includes:

Amended Claim Set; and  
Remarks.